Dear Mary, 11/8/81

Thanks for the suggestion on Tom Davis. We've dealt with him for years. When I get those copies of O in NO that will give me an idea what to ask. If anyone asks. We got his catalogue day before yesterday.

Glad you both a e getting along OK. My next neighbor appears to have the same problems as Buck. If Buck can get along as he does you'll be happy. For several years this man, Paul, a year older than me, has done for me what I'm not able to do. You should see him with an ax or saw! I've been with him when suddenly he'll stop swinging the ax or maul, will pop a nitro, and in less than a minute he's OK again and back in the Paul Bunyan business. His three angina blockages, after a serious heart attack, do not really inhibit him at all. Little by little, beginning about a decade ago, he built himself up from his heart attack hospitalization. Now he throws giants of trees right on a log chain he'd laid out in advance and with his tractor drags the damned trees right to his back yard, where he works them up. All by himself. For whatever consolation it can be for Buck, if he hadn't already done it, gradually he can come back to where he was before, based on what Paul has done.

Each of the three times I was operated on there was a problem reaching me by phone even though I had a dial-direct, outside line each time. First time it was five days in intensive care. Each of the next two times it was a room mate who conductedhis business from his bed. Thanks for trying and sorry you had those problems.

The intensive care scared everybody. I didn't require intensive care. That operation went well. Only there were no other beds. So, when operators know that intensive care means no incoming calls, I got none.

The next two operations were emergencies.

By and large I feel fine, with some discomforts. Can't do as much as I did, even walk very much, but I make out. I've moved the winter's firewood under the overhangs of the roof, from the woods, taking a little at a time. Now it is protected and even if it snows I'll be able to get it into the house. It will provide all out heat, too. I also expect to split the little that remains to be split. I can saw and split firewood sitting down, for I've done that now! Remarkably ineffecient but so gratifying!

The reason Earl has been travelling so much is that they now have him on the State side. He called me the day he was to make a speech to the journalism fraternity. He then was leaving Mondays andgetting back Fridays. I'm sorry for my own reasons. Earl is the only one who had a copy of that long affidavit and all the exhibits. He'd said he would do a story. Nobody else was in the same position, so we missed out on what that could have been.

There was a young woman reporter from the Times-Herald who was at the press conference. She has been up to see me since. She may do a story.

If you are having trouble reaching Earl, from the way he spoke a month or so ago, you should be able to get him at the office Monday's before he sets out for wherever they sent him that week.

Lil is doing OK, thanks. She has a cold right now but she has been able to do just about all the work of getting her flower beds ready for the winter.

Our best to you both,